EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Vincent Lu on 3/09/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a variety of disparate host devices access to digital images residing on a digital camera device, the method comprising upon connection of the digital camera device to a particular host device that is capable of hosting digital camera devices, the digital camera device: sending, prior to establishing a communication session on top of a physical communication link for a communication stack of the connection, one or more queries over the connection, the one or more queries being associated with one or more expected responses stored in a knowledgebase including a registry, the communication stack having one or more communication layers including the communication session, each communication layer corresponding to a communication protocol; comparing a response received in response to the one or more queries over the connection with the one or more expected responses to determine an identifier for a type kind of the physical communication link for the communication stack of the connection to the particular host device; looking up a preferred configuration for the one or

more communication layers according to the determined identifier referencing the settings in the registry; allowing communication between the digital camera device and the particular host device; automatically identifying the particular host device that the digital camera device is currently connected to; based on said determined kind type of physical communication link, establishing the communication session between the digital camera device and the particular host device for the communication stack of the connection, said communication session supporting photo- serving communication protocols that present the digital camera device as a file server to the host device; and through said photo-serving communication protocols, allowing the host device to access digital images residing on the digital camera device, as if the digital camera device were the file server, wherein said particular host device and said digital camera device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session.

8. (Currently amended)The method of claim 1, wherein [[said particular host device and said digital camera device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session]] further comprising: updating the knowledge base with corresponding communication information relevant to the particular device connected.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said communication session

established between the digital camera device and the particular host device employs TCP/IP connectivity through use of Point-to-Point protocol.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for a digital camera device to provide [[providing] a variety of disparate host devices access to files residing on [[a portable]] digital camera device, upon the [[portable]] digital camera device's connection to one of the host devices, the method comprising: sending, prior to establishing a communication session on top of a physical communication link for a communication stack of the connection, one or more queries over the connection, the one or more queries being associated with one or more expected responses stored in a knowledgebase including a registry, the communication stack having one or more communication layers including the communication session, each communication layer corresponding to a communication protocol; comparing, subsequently to sending the one or more queries, a response received over the connection with the one or more expected responses to determine an identifier for a type kind of a physical communication link for the communication stack of the connection to the particular host device looking up preferred configurations for the one or more communication layers according to the determined identifier referencing the settings in the registry; allowing communication between the digital camera device and the particular host device; automatically identifying the particular host device that the [[portable]] digital camera device is connected to; and based on said determined type kind of physical communication link: (1) establishing the communication session between the [[portable]] digital camera device and the particular host device for the communication stack of the connection, said

communication session supporting file-serving communication protocols that present the [[portable]] digital camera device as a file server to the host device; and (2) if needed by the host for supporting said file-serving communication protocols, automatically uploading a driver from the [[portable]] digital camera device to the particular host device and thereafter invoking execution of the driver at the particular host device, for providing host-side support for said file-serving communication protocols, wherein said particular host device and said digital camera device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said connecting step includes: connecting the [[portable]] digital camera device to a particular host device over a wireless communication medium.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said connecting step includes: connecting the [[portable]] digital camera device to a particular host device over a wireline communication medium.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, [[wherein said particular host device and said potable device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP

session]] further comprising: updating the knowledge base with corresponding communication information relevant to the particular device connected .

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for offloading files from said [[portable]] digital camera device, wherein the preferred configurations include transmission speed properties of the kind of the physical communication link identified by the identifier.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for manipulating files, while those files reside on said [[portable]] digital camera device.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said identifying step occurs immediately upon connection of the [[portable]] digital camera device to the particular host device.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said knowledgebase is stored in a registry of the [[portable]] digital camera device.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said communication session established between the [[portable]] digital camera device and the particular host device employs

TCP/IP connectivity through use of Point-to-Point protocol.

37. (Currently Amended) The method claim 21, wherein said file-serving communication protocols comprise a file-specific interface allowing the particular host device to directly access files, while those files reside on the [[portable]] digital cameral device.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein said file-serving communication protocols comprise a command set providing the particular host device with file-based access and manipulation of files residing on the [[portable]] digital camera device.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the appropriate driver is initially stored on said [[portable]] digital camera device and is injected into the particular host device upon connection of the two devices together.

41. (Currently Amended) A [[portable]] digital camera device allowing a variety of disparate host devices access to files residing on the [[portable]] digital camera device, upon the [[portable]] digital camera device's connection to one of the host devices, the [[portable]] digital camera device comprising: a connection interface for enabling the connection of the [[portable]] digital camera device to a particular host device that is capable of hosting the [[portable]] digital camera device; an identification module configured for sending, prior to establishing a communication session on top of a physical communication link for a communication stack of the connection, one or more queries over the connection, the one or more queries being

associated with one or more expected responses stored in a knowledgebase including a registry having key settings configured with factory preset values, the communication stack having one or more communication layers including the communication session, each communication layer corresponds to a communication protocol comparing, subsequently to sending the one or more queries, a response received over the connection with the one or more expected responses according to the key settings of the registry to determine an identifier for a type kind of the physical communication link for the communication stack of the connection to the particular host device; looking up preferred configurations for the one or more communication layers according to the determined identifier referencing the configured key settings in the registry for a query sent over the physical device is currently connected to, wherein the key settings include sub-keys as a table of possible communicating devices that may be connected from time to time to the [[portable]] digital camera device and wherein the particular host device is indicated by one or more internal flags updated according to the identification; and a communication module for establishing, based on said determined type kind of physical communication link, the communication session between the [[portable]] digital camera device and the particular host device, wherein said communication session supports file-serving communication protocols that present the [[portable]] digital camera device as a file server to the host device, wherein the access of the files includes quality of the files depending on the preferred configurations for the preferred configurations for the one or more communication layers of the communication stack, wherein said particular host device and said digital camera device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session.

42. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said connection interface supports connecting the [[portable]] digital camera device to a particular host device over a wireless communication medium.

43. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said connection interface supports connecting the [[portable]] digital camera device to a particular host device over a wireline communication medium.

48. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein [[said particular host device and said portable device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session]] the knowledge base is updated with corresponding communication information relevant to the particular device connected.

49. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for offloading files from said [[portable]] digital camera device, wherein the preferred configurations include transmission speed properties of the kind of the physical communication link identified by the identifier.

50. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said particular host device includes facilities for manipulating files, while those files reside on said [[portable]] digital camera

device.

51. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said identification module operates to identify the particular host device immediately upon connection of the [[portable]] digital camera device to the particular host device.

55. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 33, wherein said knowledgebase is stored in a registry of the [[portable]] digital camera device.

56. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said communication session established between the [[portable]] digital camera device and the particular host device employs TCP/IP connectivity through use of Point-to-point protocol.

57. (Currently Amended) The device claim 41, wherein said file-serving communication protocols comprise a file-specific interface allowing the particular host device to directly access files, while those files reside on the [[portable]] digital camera device.

58. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein said file-serving communication protocols comprise a command set providing the particular host device with file-based access and manipulation of files residing on the [[portable]] digital camera device.

59. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, wherein the driver injection module stores an

appropriate driver initially on said [[portable]] digital camera device, wherein the driver is injected into the particular host device upon connection of the two devices together.

62. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 41, further comprising: a driver injection module for providing host-side support for said file-serving communication protocols if not already present, said driver injection module operating by automatically uploading a driver from the [[portable]] digital camera device to the particular host device and thereafter invoking execution of the driver at the particular host device, so that the host device may access files residing on the [[portable]] digital camera device, as if the [[portable]] digital camera device were a file server.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art on record fails to teach a digital camera capable of sending, prior to establishing a communication session on top of a physical communication link for a communication stack of the connection, one or more queries over the connection, the one or more queries being associated with one or more expected responses stored in a knowledgebase including a registry, the communication stack having one or more communication layers including the communication session, each communication layer corresponding to a communication protocol in combination with wherein said particular host device and said digital camera device support TCP/IP connectivity corresponding to one of the communication protocols of the communication stack and wherein the communication session is a TCP/IP session in further combination with all the limitation in the independent claims.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DJENANE M. BAYARD whose telephone number is (571)272-3878. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 5:30 AM- 3:00 PM..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on (571) 272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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